

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A fixation unit that fixes toner onto a recording paper, said fixation unit comprising:
 - a thermal fixation roller;
 - a heating part that heats said thermal fixation roller;
 - a compressing part that presses said thermal fixation roller; and
 - a drive gear, mounted on said thermal fixation roller, which rotationally drives said thermal fixation roller, said drive gear being made of a material having a coefficient of thermal expansion that is less than that of said thermal fixation roller, wherein an outer diameter of said thermal fixation roller is equal to or larger than an inner diameter of said drive gear, as said heating part heats said thermal fixation roller.
2. **(Original)** A fixation unit according to claim 1, wherein $0 \leq A - B \leq 0.2$ mm is met where A is the outer diameter of the thermal fixation roller and B is the inner diameter of the drive gear.
3. **(Original)** A fixation unit according to claim 1, wherein said thermal fixation roller has a temperature between 150°C and 210°C as said heating part heats said thermal fixation roller.
4. **(Currently Amended)** A fixation unit according to claim 1, wherein the outer diameter of said thermal fixation roller is equal to or larger than the inner diameter of said drive gear during a non-heating time of said heating part at the room temperature.

5. **(Original)** A fixation unit according to claim 1, wherein one of said thermal fixation roller and said drive gear has a notch and the other has a projection that can be inserted into the notch.

6. **(Original)** A fixation unit according to claim 1, wherein a frictional force engages said thermal fixation roller with said drive gear.

7. **(Original)** A fixation unit according to claim 1, wherein said thermal fixation roller is made of aluminum and has a thickness of 0.8 mm or smaller.

8. **(Original)** A fixation unit according to claim 1, wherein said thermal fixation roller is made of aluminum and has a thickness of 0.6 mm or smaller.

9. **(Original)** A fixation unit according to claim 1, wherein said thermal fixation roller has a hollow cylindrical shape.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A fixation unit that fixes toner onto a recording paper, said fixation unit comprising:

a hollow thermal fixation roller that has a thickness of 0.6 mm or smaller and is made of a metallic material;

a heating part that heats said fixation roller; and

a drive gear, mounted on said thermal fixation roller, which rotationally drives said thermal fixation roller, said drive gear being made of a material having a coefficient of thermal expansion that is less than that of said thermal fixation roller.

11. **(Original)** A fixation unit according to claim 10, wherein the metallic material is aluminum.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A fixation unit that fixes toner onto a recording paper, said fixation unit comprising:

a thermal fixation roller having a projection;
a heating part that heats said thermal fixation roller;
a compressing part that presses said thermal fixation roller; and
a drive gear, mounted on said thermal fixation roller, which rotationally drives
said thermal fixation roller and has a notch into which the projection of said thermal
fixation roller is inserted, said drive gear being made of a material having a coefficient of
thermal expansion that is less than that of said thermal fixation roller.

13. (Original) A fixation unit according to claim 12, wherein said thermal
fixation roller is made of aluminum and has a thickness of 0.8 mm or smaller.

14. (Original) A fixation unit according to claim 12, wherein said thermal
fixation roller is made of aluminum and has a thickness of 0.6 mm or smaller.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus comprising:
a fixation unit that fixes toner onto a recording paper, wherein said fixation unit
includes a thermal fixation roller, a heating part that heats said thermal fixation roller, a
compressing part that presses said thermal fixation roller, and a drive gear, mounted on
said thermal fixation roller, which rotationally drives said thermal fixation roller, said
drive gear being made of a material having a coefficient of thermal expansion that is
less than that of said thermal fixation roller, wherein an outer diameter of said thermal
fixation roller is equal to or larger than an inner diameter of said drive gear, as said
heating part heats said thermal fixation roller;

a first mode that uses said fixation unit to record information on the recording
paper; and

a second mode that stop heating said fixation unit.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A recording apparatus comprising:

a fixation unit that fixes toner onto a recording paper, wherein said fixation unit includes a hollow thermal fixation roller that has a thickness of 0.6 mm or smaller and is made of metallic material, a heating part that heats said fixation roller, and a drive gear, mounted on said thermal fixation roller, which rotationally drives said thermal fixation roller, said drive gear being made of a material having a coefficient of thermal expansion that is less than that of said thermal fixation roller;

a first mode that uses said fixation unit to record information on the recording paper; and

a second mode that stop heating said fixation unit.

18. **(Currently Amended)** A recording apparatus comprising:

a fixation unit that fixes toner onto a recording paper, wherein said fixation unit includes a thermal fixation roller having a projection, a heating part that heats said thermal fixation roller, a compressing part that presses said thermal fixation roller, and a drive gear, mounted on said thermal fixation roller, which rotationally drives said thermal fixation roller and has a notch into which the projection of said thermal fixation roller is inserted [[.]], said drive gear being made of a material having a coefficient of thermal expansion that is less than that of said thermal fixation roller;

a first mode that uses said fixation unit to record information on the recording paper; and

a second mode that stop heating said fixation unit.

19. **(Cancelled)**

20. **(Currently Amended)** A method for manufacturing a fixation unit that fixes toner onto a recording paper, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a hollow cylindrical thermal fixation roller that heats and compresses the toner against the recording paper, and has a first thermal expansion coefficient;

forming a drive gear that rotationally drives the thermal fixation roller and has a second thermal expansion coefficient smaller than the first thermal expansion coefficient; and

mounting the drive gear on the thermal fixation roller, wherein said step of forming the thermal fixation roller and said step of forming the drive gear set an outer diameter of the thermal fixation roller and an inner diameter of the drive gear during a time of non-heating at the room temperature based on the first and second thermal expansion coefficients so that the outer diameter of said thermal fixation roller is equal to or larger than the inner diameter of said drive gear, when the toner is heated.

21. **(Currently Amended)** A thermal fixation roller on which a drive gear is mounted, said thermal fixation roller comprising a body having an outer diameter equal to or larger than an inner diameter of the drive gear at the time of heating, said drive gear being made of a material having a coefficient of thermal expansion that is less than that of said thermal fixation roller.

22. **(Original)** A thermal fixation roller according to claim 21, wherein said thermal fixation roller has a hollow cylindrical shape.

23. **(Original)** A thermal fixation roller according to claim 21, wherein said thermal fixation roller is made of a metallic material and has a thickness of 0.6 mm or smaller.

24. **(Original)** A thermal fixation roller according to claim 21, wherein the metallic material is aluminum.